

REF: 4J-PR

Jo Anne Schlatter  
4423 Wilshire Ave.  
Louisville, KY 40216

Dear Ms. Schlatter:

This is in response to your letter regarding health problems that you feel may be attributed to the Lees Lane Landfill site or near-by industries.

EPA can empathize with the emotional strain that you are experiencing as you seek to find the cause of your health problems. Our primary objective is to provide you, the public, with adequate protection from potential health hazards that may be caused by the landfill. In order to accomplish this objective, we must gather sufficient data over a reasonable period of time and varied climatic conditions so we can determine conclusively whether or not the landfill is the source of the reported odors and health problems. However, it is not within the scope of this project to determine if the near-by industries are contributing any ambient air problems. If it is proven that the industries are the source of the odors and/or contaminants, your state and local officials may be able to assist you in addressing this problem.

After this investigation is concluded, we will be able to determine if there are any contaminant concentration levels of concern and what actions can be taken to reduce the threats, if any are present. To date, none of the sampling has identified any chemicals from any sources(s) that are at levels of public health concern.

We have requested the state and county officials to contact us when there is a rainy period so that we can sample during this period. This data is needed since most of the odors are reported to be present at this time.

In regard to your personal health problems, we can not offer any medical advice. Without knowing what substances and concentrations are being released from area industries, and most importantly, whether you are even being exposed to these emissions, no medical determination can be made as to whether your health problems are related to these emissions. Unless our air investigation determines there are gases being released from the site at levels of public health concern, EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry can not address your health problems. For these problems you will have to continue to see a physician.

You should also be aware that your health conditions may not be due to possible emissions from the site or from area industries. Other factors that can cause chronic health problems can include occupational exposures,

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exposures to chemicals normally used in the home, age, allergies, diet or other non-chemically related reasons. Therefore, it is not appropriate for you to send us a list of the health problems that you are experiencing at this time. Instead, you should continue to consult with your private physician(s).

You will be contacted as soon as the next sampling investigation is scheduled. In the meantime, if you have further questions, please write or call me at (404) 347-2643.

Sincerely,

Peverly Houston  
Remedial Project Manager  
Emergency & Remedial Response Branch

cc: Harry Burrus  
Harry Owens